

*Patriot-Ledger  
Times, 5/13/97*

WATER

## Duxbury

# Pipes must be replaced

**\$1.5M project will  
end contamination**

By Lucy Shepherd Harriman  
The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY — A committee studying ways to eliminate drinking-water contamination wants the town to spend \$1.5 million to replace four miles of pipes.

The vinyl-lined asbestos cement pipes are leaching perchloroethylene, a suspected carcinogen, into the drinking water supply in some parts of town.

Perchloroethylene, or PCE, has been found in higher-than-acceptable levels in about 16 of the 120 miles of town water mains.

Replacing all 16 miles of the pipes would cost taxpayers about \$6 million, said Jeffrey Dierks, an environmental engineer with the Cambridge firm of Camp Dresser and McKee, the committee's consultant.

Dierks told about 30 people at the selectmen's meeting last night that the committee recommends the town continue testing the water to prevent potential problems and replace about four miles of the pipes.

The initial replacement would include pipes under Cottontail Drive, The Marshes, the Plantation Drive subdivision, Seabury Point Drive, Southgate through Deerpath Trail North, Stockade Path, Stonegate Lane and the Tinkertown Ponds subdivision.

Dierks said the committee considers those areas "highest priority."

However, at least two members of the nine-member committee, Jack Martinelli and George Wadsworth of the water department, disagree with the other members about how to solve the problem.

In a minority report, they said using chemical treatment and bleeding the pipes might be a better solution.

Wadsworth said Hanson and Sandwich have had good results with the chemicals, which were originally developed to reduce corrosion in water pipes.

The towns also use a system of bleeding the pipes and "looping" in which the mains are reconstructed to run back into the water system rather than sit in dead-ends and cul-de-sacs, which doesn't allow the water to move freely.

The committee is still working with Dierks to develop a final plan. A report with cost estimates is expected by the end of this month.

The selectmen said they will review the majority and minority reports before commenting.